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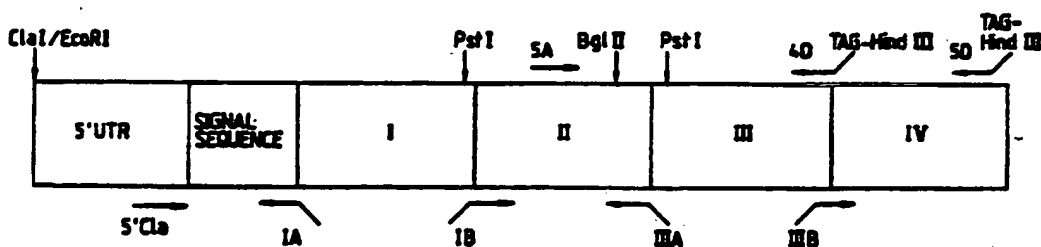
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : C12N 15/12, C07K 13/00 A61K 37/02		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 92/07076 (43) International Publication Date: 30 April 1992 (30.04.92)
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(54) Title: MODIFIED HUMAN TNFALPHA (TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR ALPHA) RECEPTOR



(57) Abstract

A polypeptide which is capable of binding human TNF α and which consists essentially of: a) the first three cysteine-rich subdomains, but not the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain, of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD or 75kD receptor for human TNF α ; or b) an amino acid sequence having a homology of 90 % or more with the said sequence (a).

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Modified human TNF α (tumor Necrosis Factor α) Receptor.

The present invention relates to recombinant proteins and their use.

Tumour necrosis factor- α (TNF α) is a potent cytokine which elicits a broad spectrum of biological responses. TNF α causes the cytolysis or cytostasis of many tumour cell lines in vitro, induces the haemorrhagic necrosis of transplanted tumours in mice, enhances the phagocytosis and cytotoxicity of polymorphonuclear neutrophils, and modulates the expression of many proteins, including lipoprotein lipase, class I antigens of the major histocompatibility complex, and cytokines such as interleukin 1 and interleukin 6. TNF α appears to be necessary for a normal immune response, but large quantities produce dramatic pathogenic effects. TNF α has been termed "cachectin" since it is the predominant factor responsible for the wasting syndrome (cachexia) associated with neoplastic disease and parasitemia. TNF is also a major contributor to toxicity in gram-negative sepsis, since antibodies against TNF can protect infected animals.

The many activities of TNF α are mediated by binding to a cell surface receptor. Radioligand binding studies have confirmed the presence of TNF receptors on a wide variety of cell types. Although these receptors are expressed in limited numbers (1,000 - 10,000 receptors/cell), they bind TNF α with high affinity ($K_a = 10^9 M^{-1}$ at 4°C). Lymphotoxin (LT, also termed TNF β) has similar, if not identical, biological activities to TNF α , presumably because both are recognized by the same receptor.

Recently, several laboratories have detected heterogeneity in TNF receptor preparations. Two distinct cell surface receptors which bind TNF α and TNF β have recently been characterised at the molecular level. cDNA for one form of the receptor with a Mr of 55kD was isolated utilising probes designed from the peptide sequence of a

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soluble form of the receptor (1,2). A second receptor of Mr 75kD was cloned by a COS cell expression approach (3). Both receptors are members of a larger family of cytokine receptors which include the nerve growth factor receptor, the B cell antigen CD40, the rat T cell antigen MRC OX40. In addition these receptors are homologous to the predicted product of a transcriptionally active open reading frame from Shope fibroma virus which appears to give rise to a secreted protein.

10 The most conserved feature amongst this group of cell surface receptors is the cysteine rich extracellular ligand binding domain, which can be divided into four repeating motifs of about forty amino acids. We have now generated four soluble receptor derivatives of the 55kD TNF α receptor (TNFR). Each derivative is composed of the extracellular binding domain but without one of the cysteine rich subdomains. We have found that the derivative which lacks the membrane-proximal fourth subdomain retains the ability to bind TNF α with high affinity. This finding has general applicability.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a polypeptide which is capable of binding human TNF α and which consists essentially of:

- (a) the first three cysteine-rich subdomains, but not the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain, of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD or 75kD receptor for human TNF α ; or
- (b) an amino acid sequence having a homology of 90% or more with the said sequence (a).

30 The invention also provides:

- a DNA sequence which encodes such a polypeptide;
- a vector which incorporates a DNA sequence of the invention and which is capable, when provided in a transformed host, of expressing the polypeptide of the invention encoded by the DNA sequence; and

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a host transform d with such a v ct r.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 shows the nucleotide sequence of the human TNF α cDNA and encoded amino acid sequence. The predicted signal sequence residues are numbered -40 to -1. The transmembrane domain is boxed and potential N-linked glycosylation sites are overlined. The sequence homologous with the designed oligonucleotide probe is found at nucleotide positions 477-533.

10 Figure 2 is a Northern blot (lanes 1-3) of 10 μ g of oligo-dT selected RNA from human 293 cells (fibroblast cell line) (lane 1), placenta (lane 2) and spleen (lane 3) hybridised with the TNF receptor cDNA (SmaI-EcoRI fragment). The Southern blot (lanes 4-6) was hybridized
15 with the same probe. Human genomic DNA (5 μ g per lane) was digested with PstI (lane 4), Hind III (lane 5) and EcoRI (lane 6).

Figure 3 shows the binding characteristics of recombinant human TNF receptor expressed in COS-7 cells.
20 The direct binding of recombinant 125 I-TNF α to COS-7 cells transfected with pTNFR is presented in panel A. The inset contains Scatchard analysis derived from this data. As shown in panel B, monolayers of Cos-7 cells transfected with TNFR cDNA were incubated with 1nM 125 I-TNF in the
25 presence of various concentrations of unlabelled TNF α or TNF β .

Figure 4 shows the effects of soluble TNFR on TNF α binding and biological activity. Panel A shows the effects of supernatants from Cos-7 cells transfected with a cDNA encoding a soluble form of the TNF receptor (pTNFR α cd, closed circles) or mock transfected (open circles) on
30 125 I-TNF binding to U937 cells. Panel B shows the effects of these supernatants on TNF mediated killing of WEHI 164 (clone 13) line. Assays were performed as described in
35 Materials and Methods.

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Figure 5 is a diagram of the DNA sequence of pTNFRecd and is also a strategy map for polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based domain deletion, in which 5'UTR is the 5'-untranslated region and I to IV are the four cysteine-rich subdomains. The oligonucleotides employed in PCR in the Example and relevant restriction sites are also shown.

Figure 6 shows lined up the amino acid sequences of the four cysteine-rich subdomains of the 55kD (TNFR-55) and 75kD (TNFR-75) receptors and of rat nerve growth factor receptor (NGFR), human CD40 and rat OX40. Homology is shown by means of boxes.

Figures 7 to 11 show the nucleotide sequence and the predicted amino acid sequence of the encoded polypeptide of pTNFRecd, pΔI, pΔII, pΔIII and pΔIV.

15 Figure 12 shows the results of the assays described in
the Example 1.

Figure 13 shows diagrammatically the DNA encoding the 75kD receptor in which I to IV are the four cysteine-rich subdomains. Oligonucleotides employed in PCR-domain deletion are also shown.

A polypeptide according to the invention is capable of binding human TNF α . Typically the polypeptide has a binding affinity for human TNF α of $10^7 M^{-1}$ or greater, for example $10^8 M^{-1}$ or greater. The affinity may be from 10^7 to $10^{10} M^{-1}$, for example from 10^8 to $10^9 M^{-1}$.

A preferred polypeptide consists essentially of the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD receptor for human TNFs. The sequence (α_1) of these three subdomains is:

	V	C	P	Q	G																
30	K	Y	I	H	P	Q	N	N	S	I	C	C	T	K	C	H	K	G	T	Y	
	L	Y	N	D	C	P	G	P	G	Q	D	T	D	C	R	E	C	E	S	G	
	S	F	T	A	S	E	N	H	L	R	H	C	L	S	C	S	K	C	R	K	
	E	M	G	Q	V	E	I	S	S	C	T	V	D	R	D	T	V	C	G	C	
	R	K	N	Q	Y	R	H	Y	W	S	E	N	L	F	Q	C	F	N	C	S	
35	L	C	L	N	G	T	V	H	L	S	C	Q	E	K	Q	N	T	V	C.		

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A useful polypeptide has the amino acid sequence (c):

M G L S T V P D L L L P L V L L E L L V
 G I Y P S G V I G L V P H L G D R E K R
 D S V C P Q G K Y I H P Q N N S I C C T
 5 K C H K G T Y L Y N D C P G P G Q D T D
 C R E C E S G S F T A S E N H L R H C L
 S C S K C R K E M G Q V E I S S C T V D
 R D T V C G C R K N Q Y R H Y W S E N L
 F Q C F N C S L C L N G T V H L S C Q E
 10 K Q N T V C T.

In an alternative embodiment, the polypeptide may consist essentially of the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 75kD receptor.

15 Apart from the amino acid sequence (a), the polypeptides may alternatively consist essentially of an amino acid sequence (b) having a homology of 90% or more with sequence (a). The degree of homology may be 95% or more or 98% or more. Amino acid sequence (a) may therefore be modified by
 20 one or more amino acid substitutions, insertions and/or deletions and/or by an extension at either or each end. There should be no modification of the cysteine-residues, however. A polypeptide comprising sequence (b) must of course still be capable of binding human TNFs.

25 For example, one or more amino acid residues of the sequence (a), other than a cysteine residue, may be substituted or deleted or one or more additional amino acid residues may be inserted; provided the physicochemical character of the original sequence is preserved, i.e. in
 30 terms of charge density, hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity, size and configuration. Conservative substitutions may be made. Candidate substitutions are, based on the one-letter code (Eur. J. Biochem. 138, 9-37, 1984):

35 A for G and vice versa,

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V by A, L or G;

K by R;

S by T and vice versa;

E for D and vice versa; and

5 Q by N and vice versa.

Up to 15 residues may be deleted from the N-terminal and/or C-terminal of the polypeptide, for example up to 11 residues or up to 5 residues.

The polypeptides of the invention consist essentially of
10 sequence (a) or (b). They do not contain a fourth cysteine-rich subdomain. However, the polypeptides may be longer polypeptides of which sequence (a) or (b) is a part. A short sequence of up to 50 amino acid residues may be provided at either or each terminal of sequence (a) or (b).
15 The sequence may have up to 30, for example up to 20 or up to 10, amino acid residues.

Alternatively, a much longer extension may be present at either or each terminal of sequence (a) or (b) of up to, for example, 100 or 200 amino acid residues. Longer amino
20 acid sequences may be fused to either or each end. A chimaeric protein may be provided in which the or each extension is a heterologous amino acid sequence, i.e. a sequence not naturally linked to the amino acid sequence above. Such a chimaeric protein may therefore combine the
25 ability to bind specifically to human TNF α with another functionality.

The polypeptides of the invention lack the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain of the 55kD or 75kD receptor as the case may be. In particular, they lack the cysteine
30 residues of the fourth subdomain. They therefore do not comprise, immediately after the third cysteine-rich subdomain, any of the amino acid sequence up to the last cysteine residue of the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain of the relevant receptor except possibly the first amino acid
35 residue of that sequence. The polypeptides may extend

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beyond that first amino acid residue as indicated above, though, by way of other amino acid sequences.

The polypeptides are typically recombinant polypeptides, although they may be made by synthetic methods such as

5 solid-phase or solution-phase polypeptide synthesis in which case an automated peptide synthesiser may be employed. They may therefore commence with a N-terminal residue M. They are prepared by recombinant DNA technology. The preparation of the polypeptides therefore

10 depends upon the provision of a DNA sequence encoding the polypeptide. A suitable sequence encoding the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD receptor comprises: GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC AAG TGC

15 CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT CCA GGC CCG GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC AGC TGC TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TCT TGC ACA GTG GAC CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC CCG CAT TAT TGG AGT

20 GAA AAC CTT TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC CTC TGC CTC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG AAA CAG AAC ACC GTG TGC.

A DNA sequence may further comprise a DNA sequence encoding a signal sequence fused to the 5' end of the coding sequence. Any signal sequence may be appropriate.

25 The signal sequence should be capable of directing secretion of the polypeptide of the invention from the cell in which the polypeptide is expressed. The signal sequence may be the natural signal sequence for the 55kD TNF α receptor. An appropriate DNA sequence encoding the first

30 three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD receptor and such a signal sequence is therefore: ATG GGC CTC TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CTG CCG CTG GTG CTC CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA GAT AGT

35 GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT AAT TCG ATT

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TGC TGT ACC AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT
CCA GGC CCG GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC
TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC AGC TGC
TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TCT TGC
5 ACA GTG GAC CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC
CGG CAT TAT TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC
CTC TGC CTC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG AAA CAG
AAC ACC GTG TGC ACC.

A DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide of the invention
10 may be synthesised. Alternatively, it may be constructed
by isolating a DNA sequence encoding the 55kD or 75kD
receptor from a gene library and deleting DNA downstream of
the coding sequence for the first three cysteine-rich
subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the
15 receptor. This gives DNA encoding the first three
subdomains of either receptor. As an intermediate step,
DNA encoding the entire or nearly the entire extracellular
binding domain may be isolated and digested to remove DNA
downstream of the coding sequence for the first three
20 subdomains.

A modified nucleotide sequence, for example encoding an
amino acid sequence (b), may be obtained by use of any
appropriate technique, including restriction with an
endonuclease, insertion of linkers, use of an exonuclease
25 and/or a polymerase and site-directed mutagenesis. Whether
a modified DNA sequence encodes a polypeptide of the
invention can be readily ascertained. The polypeptide
encoded by the sequence can be expressed in a suitable host
and tested for its ability to bind specifically human TNF α .

30 For expression of a polypeptide of the invention, an
expression vector is constructed. An expression vector is
prepared which comprises a DNA sequence encoding a
polypeptide of the invention and which is capable of
expressing the polypeptide when provided in a suitable
35 host. Appropriate transcriptional and translational

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control elements are provided, including a promoter for the DNA sequence, a transcriptional termination site, and translational start and stop codons. The DNA sequence is provided in the correct frame such as to enable expression of the polypeptide to occur in a host compatible with the vector.

The expression vector is then provided in an appropriate host. Cells harbouring the vector are grown so as to enable expression to occur. The vector may be a plasmid or a viral vector. Any appropriate host-vector system may be employed.

The transformed host may be a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host. A bacterial or yeast host may be employed, for example *E. coli* or *S. cerevisiae*. Insect cells can alternatively be used, in which case a baculovirus expression system may be appropriate. As a further alternative, cells of a mammalian cell line, such as Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) Cells may be transformed. A polypeptide glycosylated at one, two or three of the sites shown in Figure 1 can be obtained by suitable choice of the host cell culture.

The polypeptide of the invention can be isolated and purified. The N-terminal of the polypeptide may be heterogeneous due to processing of the translation product within a cell or as the product is being secreted from a cell. A mixture of polypeptides according to the invention, having different N-termini, may therefore be obtained. The polypeptide is soluble.

The polypeptides of the invention have activity binding human TNF α . This activity is indicative of the possible use of the polypeptides in the regulation of TNF α -mediated responses by binding and sequestering human TNF α , for example possible use in treatment of pulmonary diseases, septic shock, HIV infection, malaria, viral meningitis, graft versus host reactions and autoimmune diseases such as

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rheumatoid arthritis.

For this purpose, a polypeptide of the present invention may be formulated in a pharmaceutical composition. The pharmaceutical composition also comprises a
5 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

The polypeptide of the invention may be administered to a patient by any convenient route. The choice of whether an oral route or a parenteral route, such as subcutaneous, intravenous or intramuscular administration, is adopted; of
10 the dose; and of the frequency of administration depends upon a variety of factors. These factors include the purpose of the administration, the age and weight of the patient being treated and the condition of the patient. Typically, however, the polypeptide is administered in an
15 amount of from 1 to 1000 μ g per dose, more preferably from 10 to 100 μ g per dose, for each route of administration.

The following Examples illustrate the invention. A Reference Example is provided.

REFERENCE EXAMPLE

20 1. Materials and Methods

Reagents

Recombinant human TNF α and TNF β were supplied as highly purified proteins derived from *E. coli*. The specific
activities of these preparations were approximately 10⁷
25 units/mg, as measured in the murine L929 cell cytotoxicity assay (4). The synthetic oligonucleotides were prepared by Oswel DNA Service (University of Edinburgh).

Isolation of TNF α 55kD receptor cDNA clones

The sequence of a peptide fragment (E M G Q V E I S S T
30 V D R D T V C G) of the TNF binding protein was used to design a synthetic oligonucleotide probe (5' AAG GAG ATG GGC CAG GTT GAG ATC TCT TCT ACT GTT GAC AAT GAC ACT GTG TGT GGC-3'). The 57-mer DNA probe was labelled with ³²P and T4

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- polynucleotide kinase (New England Bi lab, Beverly, MA) and used to screen a placenta cDNA library in gt10 (5,6). Approximately 800,000 phage were transferred to nitrocellulose filters and screened at reduced stringency
- 5 (7). Filters were incubated for 2 hours at 42°C in 0.05M sodium phosphate, pH 6.5, 20% formamide, 0.75 M sodium chloride, 0.075 M sodium citrate, 1% polyvinyl pyrrolidone (Sigma, St Louis, MO), 1% Ficoll, 1% bovine serum albumin (Sigma), and 50 ng/ml sonicated salmon sperm DNA (Sigma).
- 10 The radiolabelled probe was then added to the filters (10⁸ cpm/ml final concentration) which were hybridized for 16 hours. Filters were washed extensively in 0.06M sodium chloride, 0.006M sodium citrate, 1% SDS at 37°C and positive clones were identified by autoradiography. Ten
- 15 hybridizing clones were plaque purified (5) and cDNA insert size was determined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of EcoRI digested phage DNA. The inserts of two cDNA clones were sequenced using the dideoxy chain termination technique (8).
- 20 Southern and Northern blot analysis
- DNA was isolated from human lymphocytes by the method of Blin and Stafford (9) and used for Southern blot analysis (10). DNA was digested with restriction endonucleases (New England Biolabs), fractionated on a 1% agarose gel, and
- 25 transferred to nitrocellulose. Hybridization and washing were conducted under stringent conditions (6) using a 32p-labelled preparation of a 600 bp fragment of the TNF receptor cDNA. Northern blot analysis was performed (11) on oligo-dT selected RNA isolated from human placenta,
- 30 spleen (generously provided by the Cooperative Human Tissue Network, Birmingham, AL) and a fibroblast cell line (293 cells). Following electrophoresis on a formaldehyde 1.2% agarose gel, the RNA was transferred to nitrocellulose and hybridized with the TNF α receptor DNA probe under stringent
- 35 conditions.

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Mammalian cell expression of the human TNF α 55kD receptor and derivatives

The coding region of the majority of the human TNF α 55kD receptor was isolated as an EcoRI fragment and cloned into
5 a mammalian cell expression vector (12), resulting in plasmid pTNFR. The EcoRI fragment encodes 374 amino acids of the TNF receptor; the 81 carboxyl terminal residues of the cytoplasmic domain are therefore missing from this plasmid construction. A derivative of the TNF α receptor
10 was produced by engineering a termination codon just prior to the transmembrane domain. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique (13) was used to generate a 300 bp restriction fragment containing a BgIII site at the 5' end and a HindIII site preceded by a TAG stop codon at the 3'
15 end. The PCR primers were 5'GCTGCTCCAAATGCCGAAAG and 5'AGTTCAAGCTTTTACAGTGCCCTTAACATTCTAA.

The PCR product was gel purified and cloned into the TNF receptor expression plasmid (described above) digested with BgIII and HindIII. DNA sequencing confirmed that the
20 resulting plasmid (pTNFRcd) contained the designed DNA sequence. *E. coli* harbouring pTNFRcd were deposited at the National Collection of Industrial and Marine Bacteria, Aberdeen, GB on 11 September 1990 under accession number NCIMB 40315.

25 The TNF α receptor expression plasmids were transfected into monkey COS-7 cells using Lipofectin (Gibco BRL, Bethesda, MD) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 10% fetal calf serum.

30 Analysis of recombinant TNF α 55kD receptor derivatives

TNF α was radioiodinated with the Iodogen method (Pierce) according to the manufacturer's directions. The specific activity of the ¹²⁵I-TNF α was 10-30 μ Ci/ μ g. COS cells

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transfected with the TNF α rec ptor cDNA (pTNFR, 1300 bp EcoRI fragment) were incubated for 24 hours and then seeded into six well tissue culture plates (Nunc) at 4.5×10^8 cells per well. The cells were incubated for a further 48 hours and then receptor expression was quantitated by radioligand binding for 2 hours at 4°C. Non-specific binding of ^{125}I -TNF α was determined in the presence of a 1,000 fold molar excess of unlabelled TNF α . Binding data was analysed by the method of Scatchard (14).

10 The TNF α receptor derivative was analysed for inhibition of ^{125}I -TNF α binding to the natural receptor on human U937 cells. Culture supernatant was harvested 72 hours after COS cells were transfected with pTNFRcd. U937 cells (2×10^8 cells in 200 μl) were incubated with 1nM ^{125}I -TNF α and
15 dilutions of COS cell media for 2 hours at 4°C. Cells were then centrifuged through 20% sucrose to remove unbound TNF α . Non-specific binding was determined in the presence of 1 μM unlabelled TNF α .

The TNF α receptor derivative was also analyzed for
20 inhibition of TNF α cytotoxic effects in vitro. The cytotoxicity assay was performed as described on the TNF sensitive cell line WEHI 164 clone 13 (15). Serial dilutions of supernatants from COS cells transfected with pTNFRcd or mock transfected controls were incubated with a
25 constant amount of TNF α (1 ng/ml) for 1 hour at 27°C before addition to the assay.

2. RESULTS

Isolation and characterization of the TNF α 55kD receptor cDNA

30 A partial amino acid sequence of the TNF binding protein was used to design a synthetic oligonucleotide probe. The radiolabelled probe was used to screen a human placenta cDNA library in λ gdgt10 and ten hybridizing phage were isolated. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences

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of the longest cDNA clone are depicted in Figure 1. The third potential ATG initiation codon occurs at position 156 of the nucleotide sequence; the first two ATG codons are closely followed by termination codons, and the third ATG is preceded by the best translation initiation consensus nucleotides (16). The cDNA encodes an open reading frame of 1365 bases which codes for a polypeptide of 455 residues. Both of the peptide sequences determined by amino acid sequencing were identified in the encoded cDNA (17 of 19 and 18 of 19 matching residues). The amino terminal end identified for the TNF binding protein corresponds to the cDNA encoded sequence beginning at residue 41. The first 35 amino acids are generally quite hydrophobic and probably represent a signal sequence.

Residues 35-40 are highly charged (DREKR) and such a sequence is not typically found in secretory signal sequences (17); perhaps the natural receptor is processed by proteolysis after residue 40 which contains a dibasic cleavage site (KR). Hydropathy analysis of the protein sequence predicts a single transmembrane domain of 23 amino acids. This hydrophobic sequence divides the protein into an extracellular domain of 171 residues and a cytoplasmic domain of 221 residues. The amino acid composition determined for the TNF binding protein corresponds well with the predicted composition of the extracellular domain encoded by the cDNA (results not shown). The discrepancy between the predicted receptor size (40,000 daltons) and the size determined by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (65,000 daltons, 18-20) is probably due to glycosylation; there are four potential N-linked glycosylation sites in the sequence, three of which are in the extracellular domain. The sequence contains a large number (17) of cysteine residues, 24 of which are in the extracellular domain. The arrangement of these cysteine residues is similar to that of several other cell surface

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proteins, suggesting that the TNF receptor is structurally related to a family of receptors.

A Northern blot analysis is presented in Figure 2. The ³²P-labelled cDNA hybridized to a single predominant band of oligo-dT selected RNA from human placenta or spleen. A minor larger transcript was also observed in RNA from a fibroblast cell line. The size of the hybridizing species is 2400 bases, in good agreement with the size of isolated cDNA. Also shown in Figure 2 is a Southern blot of human genomic DNA hybridized with a 600 bp probe from the cDNA. In each of the three different restriction digests, only a single hybridized signal was observed. Thus the TNF receptor that we have isolated appears to be encoded by a single gene.

15

Expression of recombinant TNF receptor sequences in mammalian cells

To confirm that the cDNA shown in Figure 1 indeed encodes the TNF receptor, the cDNA was engineered for expression in mammalian cells. The cDNA contains an EcoRI site at position 1270 of Figure 1. The receptor coding sequence was isolated as a 1300 bp EcoRI-fragment (containing all but the last 81 codons of the cytoplasmic domain) and inserted into a mammalian cell expression vector containing a cytomegalovirus promoter and SV40 transcription termination sequences (12). The resulting plasmid was transfected into COS cells which were analyzed for TNF receptor expression after three days. As shown in Figure 3, the transfected cells specifically bound radioiodinated TNF α in a saturable and dose dependent fashion. The population of COS cells expressed approximately 1×10^8 receptors per cell. The measured binding affinity of recombinant receptors was $2.5 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}$ at 4°C which is in close agreement with natural receptor on human cells (19,20). The binding of ¹²⁵I-TNF α (1 nM) to

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these cells could be inhibited by the addition of
unlabelled TNF α or lymphokine (Figure 3b). COS cells
transfected with just the expression vector did not
significantly bind 125 I-TNF α (less than 2% of the binding
5 seen with the cDNA transfection).

The extracellular domain of the TNF receptor is
naturally shed from cells. To produce a similar
recombinant derivative, a stop codon preceding the
transmembrane domain was engineered into the cDNA by PCR
10 mutagenesis. The modified DNA was inserted into the
expression plasmid and subsequently transfected into COS
cells. After three days, the COS cell media was tested for
inhibition of TNF α binding to human U937 cells. As shown
in Figure 4a, the transfected cell media inhibited up to
15 70% of the binding of TNF α . The recombinant TNF receptor
derivative was next tested for inhibition of TNF α
biological activity. A sensitive bioassay for TNF α is a
measurement of cytolysis of mouse WEHI 164 (clone 13)
cells. The transfected cell media inhibited 60% of TNF α
20 cytotoxicity on this cell line (Figure 4b). Media from
mock transfected COS cells did not inhibit TNF α induced
cytotoxicity or binding. These experiments demonstrate
that the recombinant extracellular domain of the TNF
receptor is capable of binding TNF and inhibiting its
25 biological activity.

EXAMPLE 1: Expression of polypeptide consisting essentially
of the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the
extracellular binding domain of the 55kD receptor

1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

30 Reagents

E. coli derived recombinant human TNF α had a specific
activity of 2×10^7 U/mg in an L929 cytotoxicity assay.
Oligonucleotides were purchased from Oswal DNA service
(University of Edinburgh).

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Generation of the recombinant soluble TNFR derivatives

Deletion of each of the subdomains in the recombinant soluble TNFR was achieved by means of PCR fragment joining and PCR mutagenesis. The sequence of the oligonucleotides used in these experiments is given in Table 1 and their locations relative to the four cysteine rich subdomains is shown in Figure 5. The four subdomains are lined up with respect to one another in Figure 6.

The plasmid pTNFRcd (Reference Example) is shown in Figure 7. pTNFRcd was further modified to remove 5' untranslated sequences by cloning of the Cla I/Bgl II digested product of a PCR using oligos 5' Cla and IIIA into ClaI/Bgl II digested pTNFRcd, to generate 5'- Δ Cla. Digestion of 5'- Δ Cla with Pst-I and religation resulted in the generation of pAII, which lacks the second cysteine rich subdomain (Figure 9). The fourth cysteine rich subdomain was removed by cloning of the BglII/Hind III digested product of a PCR using oligonucleotides 5A and 4D into BglII/Hind III 5'- Δ Cla; this introduced a termination codon after amino acid 167 (counting from the initial methionine) to yield pAIV (Figure 11). The constructs p I (Figure 8) and pAIII (Figure 10) which lack the first and third cysteine rich subdomains respectively were generated by joining PCR fragments by means of overlaps introduced into the primers used for the PCR. The gel purified products of PCR's using 5' Cla and IA and IB and 5D were mixed and subjected to further amplification using 5'Cla and 5D as primers. The resulting fragment was digested with ClaI and BglII and cloned into ClaI/BglII digested pTNFRcd, to yield pAI.

Similarly the gel purified products of PCR's using 5' Cla and IIIA and IIIB and 5D were mixed and subjected to further amplification using 5'Cla and 5D as primers. This product was digested with BglII and HindIII and cloned into Bgl II/Hind III cut 5'- Δ Cla to yield pAIII. In all cases

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the cloned derivatives were analysed by restriction enzyme analysis and DNA sequencing using sequenase (United States Biochemical Corporation).

Table 1: Structure of the mutagenic oligonucleotides

5	Oligo	Sequence
	Name	
	5'Cla	5'-GTTCTATCGATAAGAGGCCATAGCTGTCTGGC-3'
	IA	5'-GCTCTCACACTCTCTCTTCTCCCTGTCCCCTAG-3'
	IB	5'-AGGGAGAAGAGAGAGTGTGAGAGCGGCTCCTTC-3'
10	IIIA	5'-TGCATGGCAGGTACACACGGTGTCCCGGTCCAC-3'
	IIIB	5'-GACACCGTGTGTACCTGCCATGCAGGTTCTTT-3'
	4D	5'-GGCCAAGCTTCAGGTGCACACGGTGTTCG-3'
	5A	5'-GCTGCTCCAAATGCCGAAAG-3'
	5D	5'-AGTTCAAGCTTTACAGTGCCCTTAACATTCTAA-3'

15 Analysis of recombinant soluble TNFR derivatives

COS cells were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium containing 5% foetal calf serum. The soluble TNF α receptor derivatives were transfected into monkey COS cells by means of lipofectin (GIBCO-BRL, Bethesda MD) according to the manufacturers protocol and cell free supernatants harvested 72 hours post transfection.

Inhibition of TNF α activity

The soluble TNF α receptor derivatives were analyzed for inhibition of TNF α cytotoxic activity in vitro. The cytotoxicity assay was performed as described on the TNF α sensitive cell line WEHI 164 clone 13. Serial dilutions of supernatants from COS cells transfected with the mutant receptors or mock transfected controls were incubated with a constant amount of TNF (1 ng/ml) for 1 hour at 37°C before addition to the assay.

2. RESULTS

In order to understand more about the contribution of

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the individual cysteine rich subdomains to the binding of TNF α by the soluble form of the 55kD TNF receptor, we removed each subdomain by PCR mutagenesis (Figure 5). COS cells were transfected with each of these constructs and the supernatants were assayed for their ability to inhibit the cytotoxic activity of TNF α . Figure 12 panel A shows that conditioned medium from COS cells transfected with pTNFR α cd inhibits TNF α as previously described. Removal of the fourth cysteine rich subdomain resulted in a protein which, similar to TNFR α cd, was a potent inhibitor of TNF α (Figure 12 panel B). The mutants lacking the first, second and third subdomains did not show any inhibitory activity in the TNF α cytotoxicity assay.

EXAMPLE 2: Expression of polypeptide consisting essentially of the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 75kD receptor.

The coding region of the human 75kD TNF α receptor was isolated from a T cell lambda ZAP library, using a probe based on published sequences (3) and cloned into the EcoRI site of a mammalian cell expression vector (12) resulting in plasmid p75TNFR. In more detail, RNA was extracted from a cell line expressing the 75kD receptor and reverse transcribed. Any cell line expressing this receptor could be used, such as those described by Smith *et al* (3). The product of the reverse transcription was subjected to 25 cycles of PCR using the following primers:

5' CGC AGA ATT CCC CGC AGC CAT GGC GCC CGT CGC C 3'

and 5' GTA AGG ATC CTA TCG CCA GTG CTC CCT TCA GCT 3'.

These primers are directed against the extracellular binding domain coding region of the 75kD receptor and were taken from Smith *et al* (3). The amplified product was gel purified and shown to encode TNFR. This was subsequently used to screen the library. Plaque purification was performed essentially as described in the Reference Example

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except that the probe was labelled by random priming (21) and hybridised in 50% formamide. Filters were washed in 0.2 x SSC (Standard Saline Citrate) twice at 60°C.

A derivative of the 75kD TNF α receptor was produced by engineering a termination codon just prior to the transmembrane domain. Referring to Figure 13, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique was used to generate a 274 bp restriction fragment containing a BglII site at the 5' end and an Xba I site preceded by a TAG stop codon at the 3' end. The PCR primers were 5' ACACGACTTCATCCACGGATA and 5'ACGTTCTAGACTAGTCGCCAGTGCTCCCTCAGCTG. The PCR product was digested with Bgl II and Xba I, gel purified and cloned into the TNF receptor expression plasmid (described above) digested with BglII and Xba I. DNA sequencing confirmed that the resulting plasmid contained the designed DNA sequence.

A similar approach was utilised to generate a construct which lacked the fourth cysteine-rich subdomain of the 75kD TNF α receptor. PCR was performed using a primer upstream of the Esp I site in the 75kD TNFR and a primer which introduced a TAG termination codon and an Xba I site. The sequences of the primers was 5' CAG AAC CGC ATC TGC ACC TGC and 5'ACGTTCTAGACTTGCCACACCAGTCTGATGTTTC respectively. The PCR product was digested with EspI and Xba I and the 110bp DNA fragment gel purified and cloned into Esp I Xba I digested p75TNFR.

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CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide which is capable of binding human TNF α and which consists essentially of:
 - (a) the first three cysteine-rich subdomains, but not the
 - 5 fourth cysteine-rich subdomain, of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD or 75kD receptor for human TNF α ; or
 - (b) an amino acid sequence having a homology of 90% or more with the said sequence (a).
- 10 2. A polypeptide according to claim 1, which consists essentially of the first three cysteine-rich subdomains of the extracellular binding domain of the 55kD receptor for human TNF α .
3. A polypeptide according to claim 2, which has the
 - 15 amino acid sequence: M G L S T V P D L L L P L
 V L L E L V G I Y P S G V I G L V P H L
 G D R E K R D S V C P Q G K Y I H P Q N
 N S I C C T K C H K G T Y L Y N D C P G
 P G Q D T D C R E C E S G S F T A S E N
 20 H L R H C L S C S K C R K E M G Q V E I
 S S C T V D R D T V C G C R K N Q Y R H
 Y W S E N L F Q C F N C S L C L N G T V
 H L S C Q E K Q N T V C T.
4. A DNA sequence which encodes a polypeptide as
 - 25 defined in any one of the preceding claims.
5. A DNA sequence according to claim 4, which comprises:


```

      GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT AAT TCG ATT
      TGC TGT ACC AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT
      30 CCA GGC CCG GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC
      TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC AGC TGC
      TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TCT TGC
      ACA GTG GAC CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC
      CGG CAT TAT TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC
      
```

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CTC TGC CTC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG AAA CAG
AAC ACC GTG TGC.

6. A DNA sequence according to claim 4 or 5, which
further comprises a 5' sequence which encodes a signal
5 amino acid sequence.

7. A DNA sequence according to claim 4, which is:
ATG GGC CTC TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CTG CCG CTG GTG CTC
CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG
GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA GAT AGT GTG TGT CCC
10 CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC
AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT CCA GGC CCG
GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC
GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC AGC TGC TCC AAA TGC
CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TT TCT TGC ACA GTG GAC
15 CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC CGG CAT TAT
TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC CTC TGC CTC
AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG AAA CAG AAC ACC GTG
TGC ACC.

8. A vector which incorporates a DNA sequence as
20 claimed in any one of claims 4 to 7 and which is capable,
when provided in a suitable host, of expressing the said
polypeptide.

9. A vector according to claim 8, which is a
plasmid.

25 10. A host transformed with a vector as claimed in
claim 8 or 9.

11. A host according to claim 10, which is a
mammalian cell line.

12. A process for the preparation of a polypeptide as
30 defined in claim 1, which process comprises culturing a
transformed host as claimed in claim 10 or 11 under such
conditions that the said polypeptide is expressed.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and, as an

- 25 -

active principle, a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1.

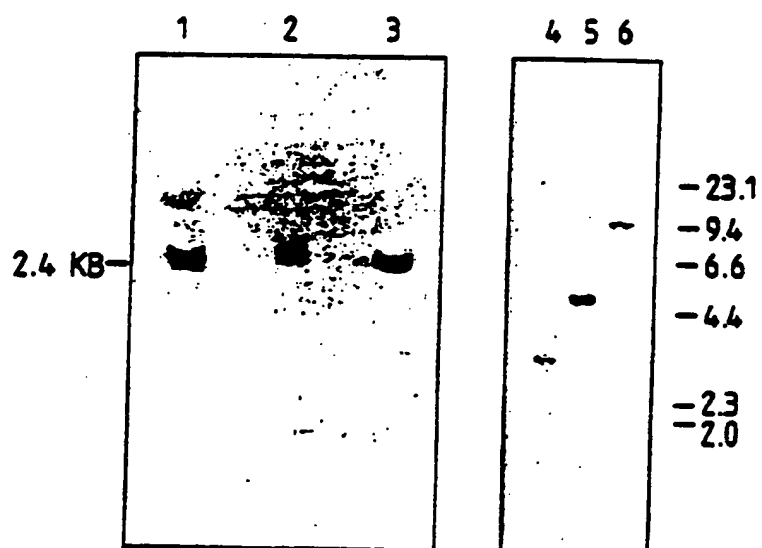
14. A polypeptide as defined in claim 1 f r use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Fig. 1.

1	ACCA	GTGATCTCTA	TGCCGGAGTC	TCAAACCCTCA	ACTGTCACCC	CAAGGCACATT	GGGACGTCTT	GGACAGACCG																
75	AGTCCOEGGA	AGCCOCAGCA	CTGCCGCTGC	CACACTGCC	TGAGCCCAA	TGGGGAGTG	AGAGGCCATA	GCTGCTGGC																
40	M	G	L	S	T	V	P	D	L	L	L	P	L	V	L	E	L	L	G	I	Y	P		
156	ATG	GGC	CTC	TCC	ACC	GTG	CCT	GAC	CTG	CTG	CTG	CCG	CTG	GTG	CTC	CTG	GAG	CTG	TTG	GTG	GGA	ATA	TAC	CCC
16	S	G	V	I	G	L	V	P	H	L	G	D	R	E	K	R	D	S	V	C	P	Q	G	K
228	TCA	GGG	GTT	ATT	GGA	CTG	GTC	CCT	CAC	CTA	GGG	GAC	AGG	GAG	AAG	AGA	GAT	AGT	GTG	TGT	CCC	CAA	GGA	AAA
9	Y	I	H	P	Q	N	N	S	I	C	C	T	K	C	H	K	G	T	Y	L	Y	N	D	C
300	TAT	ATC	CAC	CCT	CAA	AAT	AAT	TGC	ATT	TGC	TGT	ACC	AAG	TGC	CAC	AAA	GGA	ACC	TAC	TTG	TAC	AAT	GAC	TGT
33	P	G	P	G	Q	D	T	D	C	R	E	C	E	S	G	S	F	T	A	S	E	N	H	L
372	CCA	GGC	COG	GGG	CAG	GAT	ACG	GAC	TGC	AGG	GAG	TGT	GAG	AGC	GGC	TCC	TTT	ACC	GCT	TCA	GAA	AAC	CAC	CTC
57	R	H	C	L	S	C	S	K	C	R	K	E	M	G	Q	V	E	I	S	S	C	T	V	D
444	AGA	CAC	TGC	CTC	AGC	TGC	TCC	AAA	TGC	CGA	AAG	GAA	ATG	GGT	CAG	GTG	GAG	ATC	TCT	TCT	TGC	ACA	GTG	GAC
81	R	D	T	V	C	G	C	R	K	N	Q	Y	R	H	Y	W	S	E	N	L	F	Q	C	F
516	CGG	GAC	ACC	GTG	TGT	GGC	TGC	AGG	AAG	AAC	CAG	TAC	CGG	CAT	TAT	TGG	AGT	GAA	AAC	CTT	TTC	CAG	TGC	TTC
105	N	C	S	L	C	L	N	G	T	V	H	L	S	C	Q	E	K	Q	N	T	V	C	T	C
558	AAT	TGC	AGC	CTC	TGC	CTC	AAT	GGG	ACC	GTG	CAC	CTC	TCC	TGC	CAG	GAG	AAA	CAG	AAC	ACC	GTG	TGC	ACC	TGC
129	H	A	G	F	F	L	R	E	N	E	C	V	S	C	S	N	C	K	K	S	L	E	C	T
660	CAT	GCA	GGT	TTT	CTA	AGA	GAA	AAC	AAC	GAG	TGT	GTG	TCC	TGT	AGT	AAC	TGT	AAG	AAA	AGC	CTG	GAG	TGC	ACG
153	K	L	C	L	P	Q	I	E	N	V	K	G	T	E	D	S	G	T	T	V	L	L	P	L
732	AAG	TTG	TGC	CTA	CCC	CAG	ATT	GAG	AAT	GWT	AAG	GGC	ACT	GAG	GAC	TCA	GGC	ACC	ACA	GTG	CTG	TTG	CCC	CTG
177	V	I	F	F	G	L	C	L	L	S	L	L	F	I	G	L	M	Y	R	Y	Q	R	W	K
804	ATC	ATT	TTT	TTT	GGT	CTT	TGC	CTT	TTPA	TCC	CTC	CTC	TTT	ATT	GGT	TTA	ATG	TAT	CGC	TAC	CAA	CGG	TGG	AAG
201	S	K	L	Y	S	I	V	C	G	K	S	T	P	E	K	E	G	E	L	E	G	T	T	T
876	TCC	AAG	CTC	TAC	TCC	ATT	GTT	TGT	GGG	AAA	TCG	ACA	CCT	GAA	AAA	GAG	GGG	GAG	CTT	GAA	GGA	ACT	ACT	ACT

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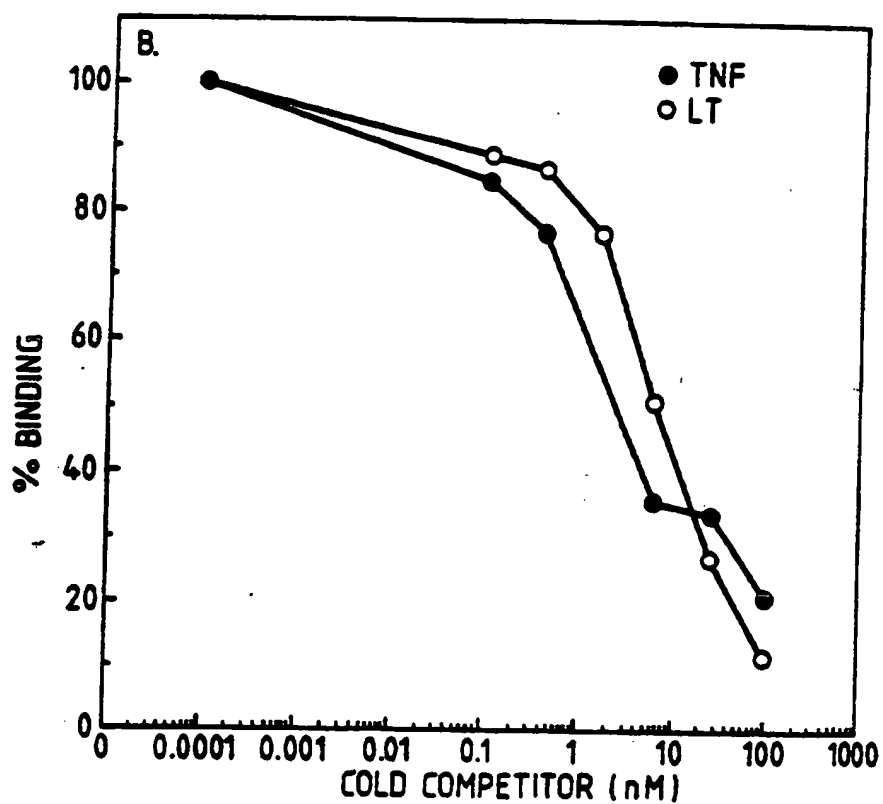
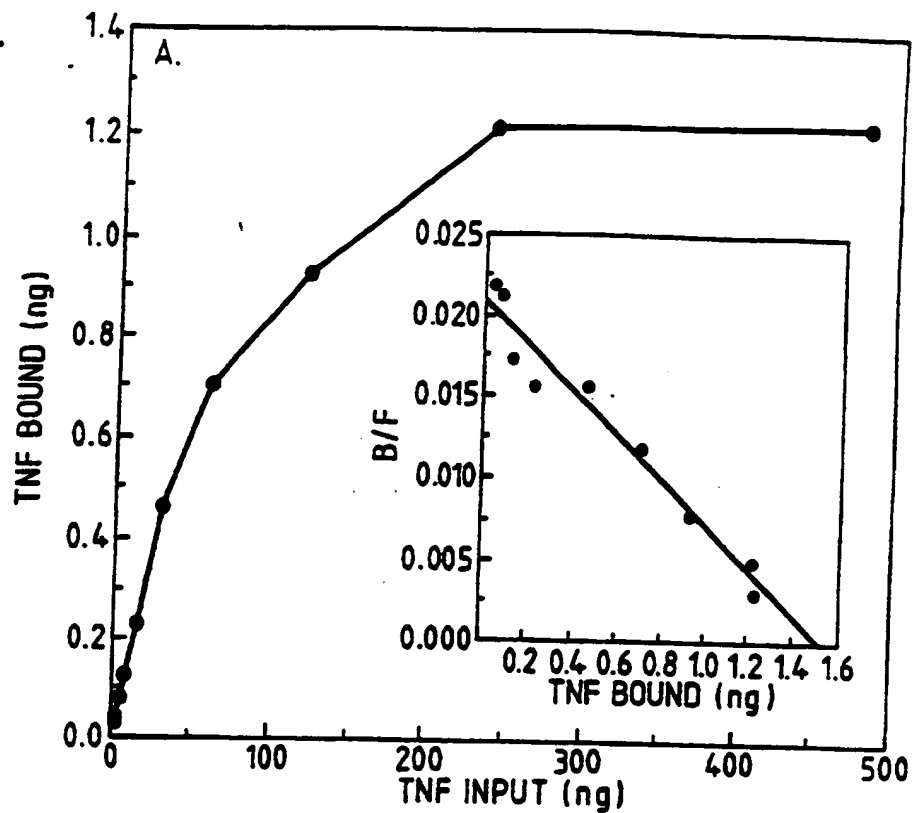
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Fig. 2.

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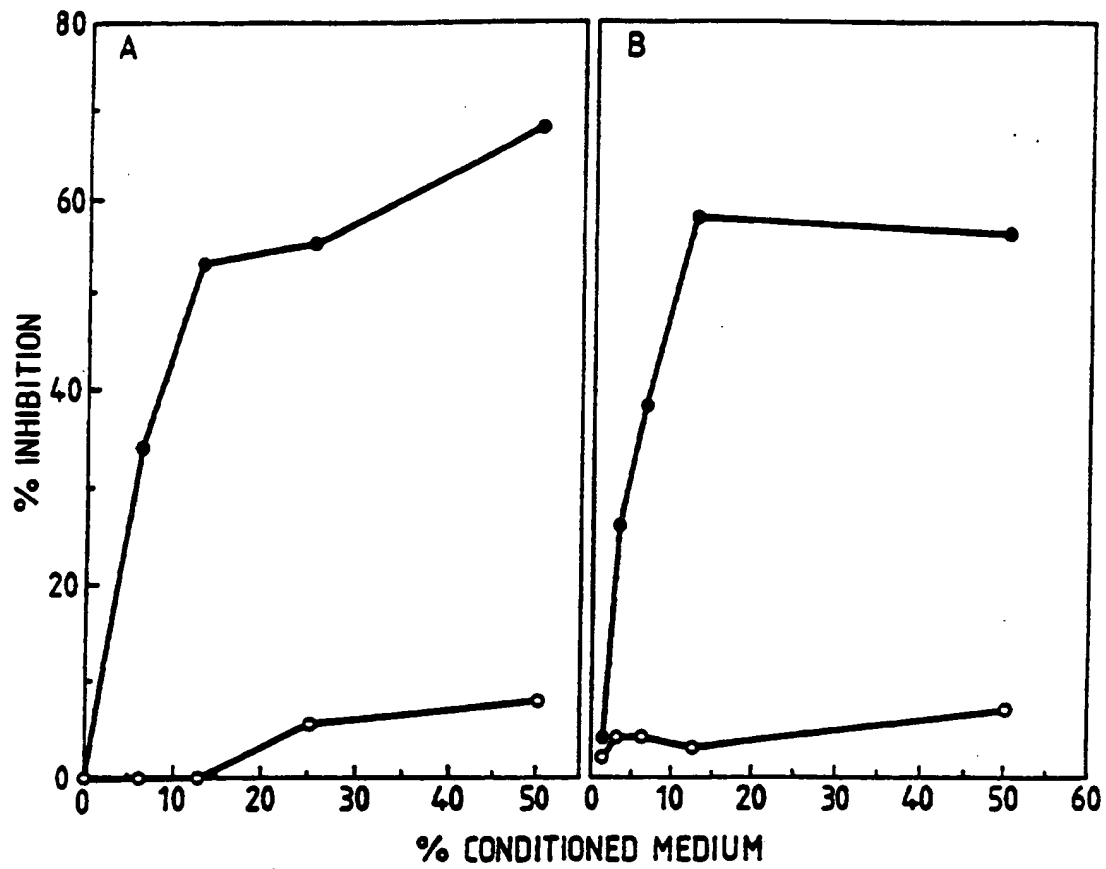
Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

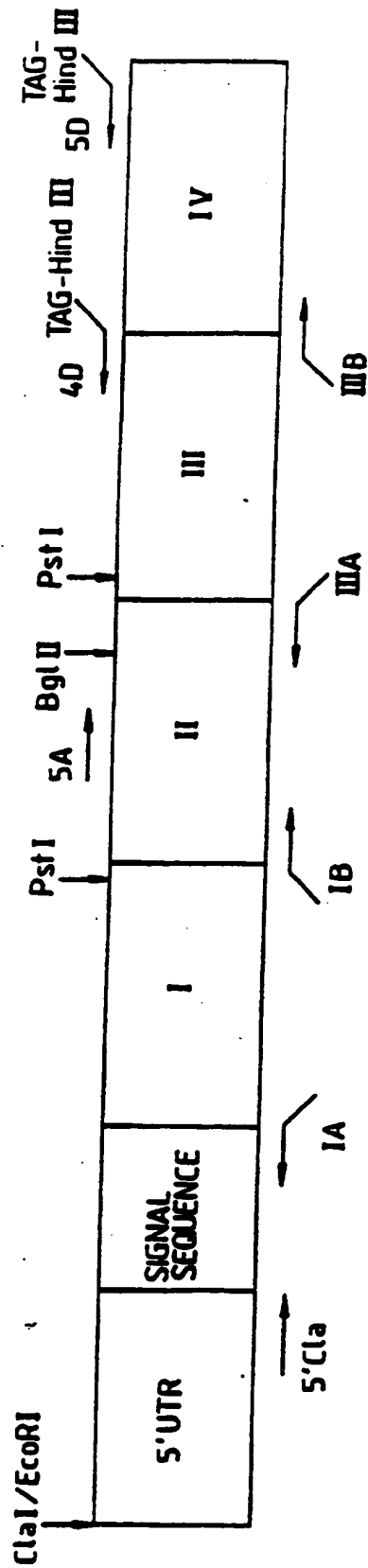
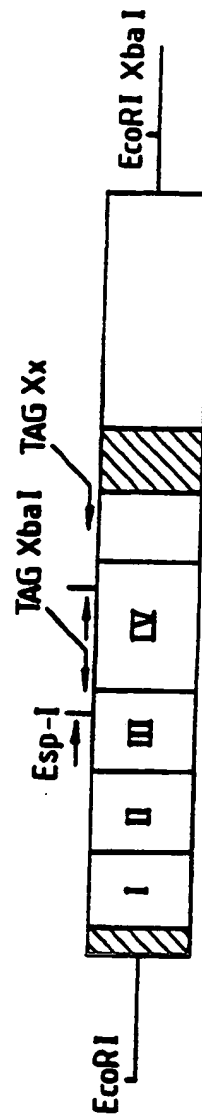


Fig. 13.



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Fig. 6.

First Subdomain

TNFR-55,
TNFR-75,
NGFR,
CD40,
OX40.

V	C	P	Q	G	K	Y	I	H	P	Q	N	S	I	C	I	K	C	H	K	G	T	Y	L	Y	N	D	G	P	G	Q	D	T	D	C	R				
T	C	H	L	R	E	V	Y	D	-	Q	T	A	Q	M	C	C	S	K	C	S	P	Q	H	A	K	V	F	C	T	K	I	S	-	D	T	V	C	D	
A	C	R	E	K	Q	Y	L	I	-	-	-	S	G	E	C	C	K	A	C	N	L	G	E	G	V	A	Q	P	C	-	G	A	N	Q	-	T	V	C	E
N	C	V	K	D	T	Y	P	S	-	-	-	N	S	Q	C	C	S	L	C	Q	P	G	Q	K	L	V	S	D	C	T	E	F	T	-	E	T	E	C	L
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	H	

Second Subdomain

TNFR-55,
TNFR-75,
NGFR,
CD40,
OX40.

E	C	-	E	S	G	S	F	T	A	S	E	N	H	L	R	H	C	L	S	C	-	S	K	R	K	E	M	G	Q	V	E	I	S	S	C	T	V	D	R	D	T	V	C		
S	C	-	E	D	S	T	Y	T	Q	L	W	N	W	V	P	E	C	L	S	C	G	-	S	S	D	Q	V	E	T	O	A	C	I	R	E	Q	N	R	I	C					
P	C	L	D	N	V	I	F	S	D	V	S	A	T	E	P	C	K	P	C	-	-	L	G	L	Q	S	M	S	A	P	C	V	E	A	D	D	A	V	C	C					
P	C	-	E	P	G	F	Y	N	E	A	V	N	Y	-	D	T	C	K	Q	C	-	T	Y	Q	C	N	H	R	S	G	S	E	L	K	Q	N	C	T	P	T	E	D	T	V	C

Third Subdomain

TNFR-55,
TNFR-75,
NGFR,
CD40.

G	C	R	K	N	Q	V	R	H	Y	W	S	E	N	L	F	O	C	F	N	C	S	L	-	-	C	L	N	G	I	-	V	H	L	S	C	O	E	K	O	N	T	V	C		
T	C	R	P	G	W	Y	C	A	L	S	K	-	-	Q	E	G	C	R	L	C	A	P	L	[R]	K	C	R	P	G	F	G	V	A	R	P	G	T	E	T	S	D	V	V	C	K
R	C	A	Y	G	Y	Q	D	E	E	T	-	-	-	G	H	C	E	A	C	S	V	-	-	C	E	V	G	S	G	L	V	F	S	C	O	D	K	O	N	T	V	C	E		
T	C	E	E	G	W	H	C	T	S	E	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	C	S	P	G	F	G	V	K	Q	I	A	T	G	V	S	D	I	T	C	E		

Fourth Subdomain

TNFR-55,
TNFR-75,
NGFR,
CD40,
OX40.

T	C	H	A	G	F	F	L	R	E	N	-	-	-	-	-	E	C	V	S	G	S	N	C	K	K	S	L	E	C	T	K	L	C	L	P	O	I	E	N	V	K	G	T			
P	C	A	P	G	T	F	S	N	T	T	S	S	T	D	I	C	R	P	H	Q	I	C	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	C	P	E	G	T	V	S	D	E	A	N	H	V	D	P	C	L	P	C	T	V	C	E	D	T	E	R	Q	L	R	E	C	T	P	W	A	-	D	A	V	C	T				
P	C	P	V	G	F	F	S	N	V	S	S	A	F	E	K	C	H	P	W	T	N	C	T	L	S	G	K	Q	I	R	H	P	A	S	N	S	L	D	T	V	C	E				

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Fig. 7.

DNA sequence 608 b.p. TGCTGGCATGG ... CCCAGATTAG linear

9	1	ATG GGC CTC	TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CCG CTG	CTG CTG CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG
met	gly	leu ser thr val pro asp leu leu leu pro leu val leu leu glu leu leu val		
69	21	GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA		
gly	ile	tyr pro ser gly val ile gly leu val pro his leu gly asp arg glu lys arg		
129	41	GAT AGT GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC		
asp	ser	val cys pro gln gly lys tyr ile his pro gln asn ser ile cys cys thr		
189	61	AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT CCA GGC CCG GAG GAT ACG GAC		
lys	cys	his lys gly thr tyr leu tyr asn asp cys pro gly pro gly gln asp thr asp		
249	81	TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC		
cys	arg	glu cys glu ser gly ser phe thr ala ser glu asn his leu arg his cys leu		
309	101	AGC TGC TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TCT TGC ACA GTG GAC		
ser	cys	ser lys cys arg lys glu met gly gln val glu ile ser ser cys thr val asp		
369	121	CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC CCG CAT TAT TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT		
arg	asp	thr val cys gly cys arg lys asn gln tyr arg his tyr trp ser glu asn leu		
429	141	TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC CTC TGC CTC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG		
phe	gln	cys phe asn cys ser leu cys leu asn gly thr val his leu ser cys gln glu		
489	161	AAA CAG AAC ACC GTG TGC ACC TGC CAT GCA GGT TTC TTT CTA AGA GAA AAC GAG TGT GTC		
lys	gln	asn thr val cys thr cys his ala gly phe phe leu arg glu asn glu cys val		
549	181	TCC TGT AGT AAC TGT AAG AAA AGC CTG GAG TGC ACG AAG TTG TGC CTA CCC CAG ATT TAG		
ser	cys	ser asn cys lys lys ser leu glu cys thr lys leu cys leu pro gln ile AMB		

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Fig. 8.

DNA sequence	482 b.p.	TGTCTGGCATGG ... CCCAGATTAG	linear
9 / 1		39 / 11	
ATG GGC CTC TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CTG CCG CTG CTG CTC CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG			
met gly leu ser thr val pro asp leu leu leu pro leu val leu leu glu leu leu val			
69 / 21		99 / 31	
GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA			
gly ile tyr pro ser gly val ile gly leu val pro his leu gly asp arg glu lys arg			
129 / 41		159 / 51	
GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC AGC TGC			
glu cys glu ser gly ser phe thr ala ser glu asn his leu arg his cys leu ser cys			
189 / 61		219 / 71	
TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TGT TGC ACA GTG GAC CGG GAC			
ser lys cys arg lys glu met gly gln val glu ile ser ser cys thr val asp arg asp			
249 / 81		279 / 91	
ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC CCG CAT TAT TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT TTC CAG			
thr val cys gly cys arg lys asn gln tyr arg his tyr trp ser glu asn leu phe gln			
309 / 101		339 / 111	
TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC CTC TGC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG AAA CAG			
cys phe asn cys ser leu cys leu asn gly thr val his leu ser cys gln glu lys gln			
369 / 121		399 / 131	
AAC ACC GTG TGC ACC TGC CAT GCA GGT TTC TTT CTA AGA GAA AAC GAG TGT GTC TCC TGT			
asn thr val cys thr cys his ala gly phe phe leu arg glu asn glu cys val ser cys			
429 / 141		459 / 151	
AGT AAC TGT AAG AAA AGC CTG GAG TGC ACG AAG TTG TGC CTA CCC CAG ATT TAG			
ser asn cys lys lys ser leu glu cys thr lys leu cys leu pro gln ile AHB			

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Fig. 9.

DNA sequence 470 b.p. TGTCTGGCATGG ... CCCACAGTTTAG linear

9	/	1	39	/	11
ATG	GGC	CTC	TCC	ACC	GTG
met	gly	leu	ser	thr	val
69	/	21	99	/	31
GGA	ATA	TAC	CCC	TCA	GGG
gly	ile	tyr	pro	ser	gly
129	/	41	159	/	51
GAT	AGT	GTG	TGT	CCC	CAA
asp	ser	val	cys	pro	gln
189	/	61	219	/	71
AAG	TGC	CAC	AAA	GGA	ACC
lys	cys	his	lys	gly	thr
249	/	81	279	/	91
TGC	AGG	AAG	AAC	CAG	TAC
cys	arg	lys	asn	gln	tyr
309	/	101	339	/	111
AGC	CTC	TGC	CTC	AAT	GGG
ser	leu	cys	leu	asn	gly
369	/	121	399	/	131
ACC	TGC	CAT	GCA	GGT	TTC
thr	cys	his	ala	gly	phe
429	/	141	459	/	151
AAA	AGC	CTG	GAG	TCC	ACG
lys	ser	leu	glu	cys	thr

CTG GAC CTG CTG CCG CTG GTG CTC CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG
 pro leu val leu leu glu leu leu val
 CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA
 pro his leu gly asp arg glu lys arg
 CCA AAT AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC
 pro gln asn ser ile cys cys thr
 GGC CCG GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC
 pro gly pro gly gln asp thr asp
 AAC CTT TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC
 leu phe gln cys phe asn cys
 GAG AAA CAG AAC ACC GTG TGC
 gln lys gln asn thr val cys
 GAG TGT GTC TCC TGT AGT AAC TGT AAG
 val ser cys val ser cys ser asn cys lys
 CCA CCC CAG ATT TAG
 leu pro gln ile amB

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Fig.10.

DNA sequence	485 b.p.	TGTCTGGCATGG ... CCCAGATTAG	linear
9 / 1			
ATG GGC CTC TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CCG CTG GTG CTC CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG	39 / 11		
met gly leu ser thr val pro asp leu leu leu pro leu val leu leu leu leu val			
69 / 21			
GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA	99 / 31		
gly ile tyr pro ser gly val ile gly leu val pro his leu gly asp arg glu lys arg			
129 / 41			
GAT AGT GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC	159 / 51		
asp ser val cys pro gln gly lys tyr ile his pro gln asn asn ser ile cys cys thr			
189 / 61			
AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT CCA GGC CCG GGG CAG GAT ACG GAC	219 / 71		
lys cys his lys gly thr tyr leu tyr asn asp cys pro gly pro gly gln asp thr asp			
249 / 81			
TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC	279 / 91		
cys arg glu cys glu ser gly ser phe thr ala ser glu asn his leu arg his cys leu			
309 / 101			
AGC TGC TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TCT TGC ACA GTG GAC	339 / 111		
ser cys ser lys cys arg lys glu met gly gln val glu ile ser ser cys thr val asp			
369 / 121			
CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT ACC TGC CAT GCA GGT TTC TTT CTA AGA GAA AAC GAG TGT GTC TCC	399 / 131		
arg asp thr val cys thr cys his ala gly phe phe leu arg glu asn glu cys val ser			
429 / 141			
TGT AGT AAC TGT AAG AAA AGC CTG GAG TGC ACG AAG TTG TGC CTA CCC CAG ATT TAG	459 / 151		
cys ser asn cys lys lys ser leu glu cys thr lys leu cys leu pro gln ile AMB			

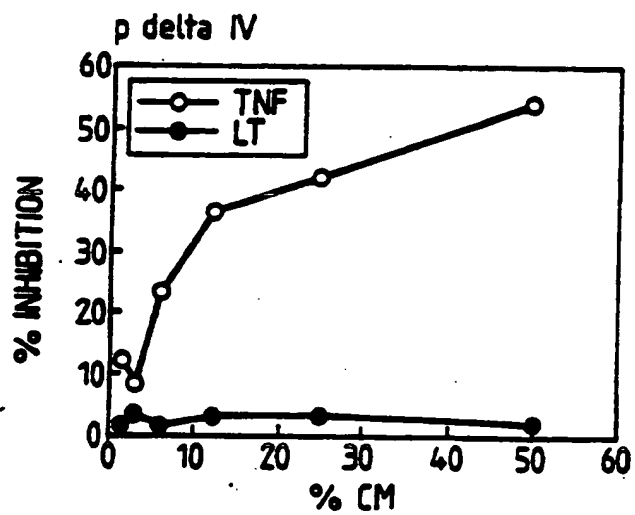
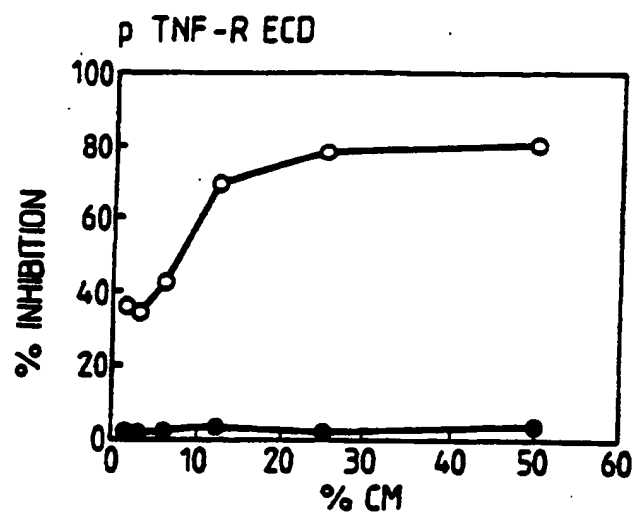
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Fig. 11.

DNA sequence	512 b.p.	TGTCTGGCATGG ... GTGTGCACCTGA	linear
9	/ 1	39 / 11	
ATG GGC CTC	TCC ACC GTG CCT GAC CTG CTG CCG CTG	CTG CTG	CTG GAG CTG TTG GTG
met gly leu	ser thr val pro asp leu leu pro leu val leu	val leu	glu leu val
69	/ 21	99 / 31	
GGA ATA TAC CCC TCA GGG GTT ATT GGA CTG GTC CCT CAC CTA GGG GAC AGG GAG AAG AGA			
gly ile tyr	pro ser gly val ile gly leu val pro his leu gly asp arg glu lys arg		
129	/ 41	159 / 51	
GAT AGT GTG TGT CCC CAA GGA AAA TAT ATC CAC CCT CAA AAT TCG ATT TGC TGT ACC			
asp ser val cys pro gln gly lys tyr ile his pro gln asn asn ser ile cys cys thr			
189	/ 61	219 / 71	
AAG TGC CAC AAA GGA ACC TAC TTG TAC AAT GAC TGT CCA GGC CCG GAG CAG GAT ACG GAC			
lys cys his lys gly thr tyr leu tyr asn asp cys pro gly pro gly gln asp thr asp			
249	/ 81	279 / 91	
TGC AGG GAG TGT GAG AGC GGC TCC TTC ACC GCT TCA GAA AAC CAC CTC AGA CAC TGC CTC			
cys arg glu cys glu ser gly ser phe thr ala ser glu asn his leu arg his cys leu			
309	/ 101	339 / 111	
AGC TGC TCC AAA TGC CGA AAG GAA ATG GGT CAG GTG GAG ATC TCT TGT TGC ACA GTG GAC			
ser cys ser lys cys arg lys glu met gly gln val glu ile ser ser cys thr val asp			
369	/ 121	399 / 131	
CGG GAC ACC GTG TGT GGC TGC AGG AAG AAC CAG TAC CGG CAT TAT TGG AGT GAA AAC CTT			
asp thr val cys gly cys arg lys asn gln tyr arg his tyr trp ser glu asn leu			
429	/ 141	459 / 151	
TTC CAG TGC TTC AAT TGC AGC CTC TGC CTC AAT GGG ACC GTG CAC CTC TCC TGC CAG GAG			
phe gln cys phe asn cys ser leu cys leu asn gly thr val his leu ser cys gln glu			
489	/ 161		
AAA CAG AAC ACC GTG TGC ACC TGA			
lys gln asn thr val cys thr opa			

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Fig.12.

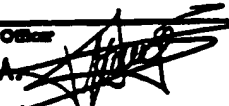


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 91/01826

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int.Cl. 5 C12N15/12; C07K13/00; A61K37/02		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	C07K	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such Documents are included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	EP,A,0 308 378 (YEDA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LIMITED) 22 March 1989 see the whole document	1-14
X	CELL. vol. 61, 20 April 1990, CAMBRIDGE, MA US pages 351 - 359; Shall, T.J. et al.: 'Molecular cloning and expression of the human 55Kd tumor necrosis factor receptor.' see the whole document	1-14
X	CELL. vol. 61, 20 April 1990, CAMBRIDGE, MA US pages 361 - 370; Loetscher, H. et al.: 'Molecular cloning and expression of a receptor for human tumor necrosis factor.' see the whole document	1-14
-/-		
<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"B" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"Z" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
23 JANUARY 1992	06.02.92	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	NAUCHE S.A. 	

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category*	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
X	<p>PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF USA. vol. 87, 1 October 1990, WASHINGTON US pages 7380 - 7384; Gray, Patrick W.; Barrett, Kathy; Chantry, David; Turner, Martin; Feldmann, Marc: 'Cloning of human tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor cDNA and expression of recombinant soluble TNF-binding protein' see the whole document</p>	1-14
P,X	<p>EP,A,0 393 438 (BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM INTERNATIONAL) 24 October 1990 see the whole document</p>	1-14